



### Overview

Public art is a powerful tool for meeting the City of Hillsboro's goals. Memorable public places strengthen our community. Such places attract us to downtown, enliven our neighborhoods, enhance our experiences in parks, inform us about the history and peoples of our place, and celebrate our ethnic and cultural diversity.

As recognized by Hillsboro's Public Art Master Plan, murals can be an integral part of any public art program. Murals increase community identity, beautify the city, serve as a tourist attraction and can provide an avenue for involving youth and others in artistic expression. Murals can also provide a reduction in the incidence of graffiti and other crime. To better serve these purposes, the City of Hillsboro has created the Hillsboro Mural Program.

The Hillsboro Mural Program is administered by the Public Art Program, Cultural Arts Division of the Parks & Recreation Department. Applications for new outdoor murals are reviewed by an advisory committee composed of community stakeholders and artists, with final approval by the Hillsboro Arts & Culture Council, an advisory council that promotes arts and culture throughout the city.

Murals approved through this program are exempt from the City sign code.

### Eligibility

Any individual or organization wishing to create an outdoor mural in the City of Hillsboro must apply for approval through the Hillsboro Public Art Program, regardless of the funding source. Applicants may be:

1. An individual artist or group of artists
2. A business or building owner
3. A not-for-profit organization, such as a neighborhood association, educational or community organization. Federal tax-exempt status 501(c)(3) is not required.

### Mural Requirements

Every applicant must demonstrate that they will:

1. Create a mural that is visually accessible to the public.
2. Use materials that ensure mural longevity and durability.
3. Paint on a surface and structure that is stable and ready for painting.
4. Meet standards of artistic quality and suitability for the neighborhood.
5. Have a plan for painting the mural that insures the safety of painters and the public, and that does not impede public access. In the event that the safety plan submitted is not being adhered to, and the City has identified a safety risk to either the artist and/or the public, the City has the right to stop work until such time that safety issues or concerns are addressed by the artist.
6. Use an approved graffiti/UV coating on the finished mural that provides resistance to vandalism and weather.

7. Comply with any relevant provisions of Hillsboro Municipal Code Sections 5 (Business Licenses), 7 (Public Safety) and 8 (Vehicles and Parking). <http://qcode.us/codes/hillsboro/>

## **Approval Criteria**

Murals in the City of Hillsboro will be approved based on the following criteria:

- A fully complete application has been submitted to the Public Art Program
- Accessibility: Mural is located in a place that is viewable by the public
- Artistic quality: Strength of the artist's concept and demonstrated technical skills and experience
- Context: Appropriate to the architecture, neighborhood, geographic, socio-cultural and historic setting in scale and expression
- Feasibility: Reasonable budget and timeline
- Original work of the artist, with no violation of copyrights
- Permanence: Use of high quality materials that will last a minimum of five years, and are resistant to vandalism, weather and ultraviolet deterioration
- Shows community support, with letters from the building owner, business owner or neighbors

## **Mural Process**

1. Applicant meets with Public Art Program staff for an initial review of the proposed location, imagery, artist's qualifications, funding sources and building owner's approval.
2. Applicant submits a fully complete Mural Program Application.
3. Public Art Program staff confirms that there are no outstanding issues with City of Hillsboro codes.
4. Staff presents the proposal to the Public Art Mural Review Committee.
5. The committee recommendation is reviewed by the Hillsboro Arts & Culture Council at a subsequent, regularly scheduled meeting. If the proposal is approved, staff sends the artist an official letter of approval and a Notice to Proceed.

6. Revisions or appeal. In the case that a mural is not approved, Public Art Program staff will communicate to the applicant in writing the reasons for the decision of the committee. The applicant is encouraged to address the concerns of the committee and submit a revised proposal.

7. Applicant provides a copy of a signed Art Easement agreement in which the building owner commits to keep the mural unchanged and in good condition for a minimum of 5 years.

8. Artist begins painting mural.

9. Artist applies anti-graffiti coating to mural.

10. Applicant installs the mural (if it is not painted directly on the wall.)

11. Applicant contacts the Public Art Program when mural is completed in accordance with the approved project timeline or on a mutually agreed upon modification of the timeline.

12. Applicant completes Hillsboro Public Art Program loan conservation record forms and provides digital images of completed mural for the City's public records.

13. The City of Hillsboro does not take responsibility for maintenance and preservation of murals in the city, unless placed on City property. A mural placed on a private structure becomes the responsibility of the building/property owner. As such, the property owner or the party so designated, is responsible for periodically monitoring the condition of the mural and facilitating its care and maintenance, assuming any costs associated with its maintenance, repair and/or removal. Murals not maintained properly may be subject to Code Compliance penalties and removal.

If a mural needs to be repaired, the best practice is to contact the artist to make the repairs or to contact the Hillsboro Public Art Program for recommendations on how to proceed.

14. Alterations to or removal of, the mural within the first five years of the date of completion are permitted under the following circumstances:

- a. The building on which mural is located is sold; or
- b. The building or property is substantially remodeled or altered in way that precludes continuance of mural.

Alterations or removal must be approved by the Hillsboro Public Art Program.

14. At the conclusion of the 5 year Easement Agreement, Applicant and the Public Art Program review the condition of the mural and file an extended Easement or make plans to remove the mural.

**For Questions, contact:**

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